United Nations S/2018/1022

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 November 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 13 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With regard to the letter dated 23 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq, Mohammed Hussein Bahr Aluloom (see S/2018/927), I would like to draw your attention to the following.

For over three decades, some parts of the Iraqi territory have been a safe haven for terrorist organizations, including PKK, DEASH and Al Qaeda.

Since then, terrorists have used Iraqi land to recruit and train militants, generate financial resources and launch systematic cross-border attacks on Turkey.

They have caused a devastating humanitarian impact on Iraq, as well as on neighbouring countries.

As enshrined in relevant Security Council resolutions, it is the responsibility of Member States to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and to deny terrorist groups the ability to use their territory as a safe haven.

As such, and in accordance with Security Council resolutions and the Iraqi constitution, the Government of Iraq must eliminate PKK and other terrorist organizations' presence and operation within its borders. This is the only way in which Iraq can establish and exercise its sovereignty fully over its territory.

It is against this background that Turkey exercises its inherent right of self-defence, as outlined in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, and takes appropriate measures within the context of the responsibility attributed to it by relevant Security Council resolutions in the fight against terrorism. Any measure taken by Turkey in this effort is in compliance with all the obligations under international law, in particular international humanitarian law.

Turkey will continue to take all the necessary steps in accordance with international law to protect its people from terrorist threats and attacks. Turkey expects the new Government of Iraq to expand and strengthen its fight against terrorism.

As a staunch supporter of the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq, Turkey will continue to stand by the Iraqi Government as it intensifies its measures to prevent and suppress terrorist acts and eliminate the terrorist presence in its territory.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative

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